

Bring It Home: Create Your Own Taino Rock Art

Extend the culture and traditions of Puerto Rico through Taino rock art. Decorated rocks with symbols of the Taino people are some of the special and symbolic items used in celebration of the Puerto Rican culture. The word Taino means good and noble. The Taino are an ancient people from as far back as 900 B.C. These gentle people were known for the friendliness and happiness. Their symbols are one of the few traces of their existence.

The Taino used their sacred symbols to share their understanding of nature and its energy. Taino symbols include the sun, water, frogs, turtles, and snails. These symbols are still found today on rocks in parts of Puerto Rico and throughout the Caribbean. With this simple activity guide, you'll be able to paint Taino symbols in celebration of the history of Puerto Rican culture.

Materials:

- Smooth rocks
- Tempera paint
- Fine paint brush
- Water
- Paper towels
- Pencil
- Paper

Get Started:

Choose one of the Taino symbols or create a symbol of your own that has special meaning to you.

Practice creating your symbol on a sheet of paper first.

With your paint brush, carefully paint your symbol on your rock.

Rinse your brush each time you change the color of your design.

Allow time for your symbol to dry!

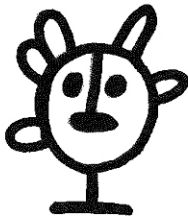




frog—coquí



snail—caracol



sun—sol



baby—niño



Resources for learning more about the Taino culture:

Books:

Tainos=Morning Girls by Michael Dorris

La Flor de Oro: Un Mito Taino de Puerto by Nina Jaffe

The Golden Flower: A Taino Myth by Nina Jaffe

The Peoples of the Caribbean: An Encyclopedia of Archaeology and Traditional Culture

Websites:

www.elboricua.com/BoricuaKidsTainos.html

www.tainoage.com

The Boeing Company is the Lead Supporter of Cultural Programs at Chicago Children's Museum.

